GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
EARLY WARNING FOR DISASTERS
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to monitor tectonic shifting patterns in the country with a view to achieve the ability for early warning of earthquakes;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has made any efforts for monitoring/conducting research on oceanic surface to understand its impact on climate and achieve capability of early warning of storms/cyclones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Government has initiated research projects invulving a number of geodetic based Global Positioning Systems (GPS) at selected locations in lhe country to monitor the crystal deformation which in turn help in understanding the nature of tectonic shifting patterns. However, current level of understanding has not reached to the stage to design early warning systems for earthquakes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adaptation of the guidelines published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures will help in reducing substantially the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes.

(d)-(e) Yes Sir. Government has established observational systems to monitor marine surface meteorological (data buoys; ships of opportunity; satellite derived wind rainfall etc) and oceanographic (waves; sea surface temperature etc.) data over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea All these observations collected over land and oceans are continuously injected in to operational data assimilation and forecasting systems for generating suitable warnings and advisories associated with development and movement of storms/ cyclones.